

3727 RCE #12  
PTO/SB/30 (08-03)  
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## REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/844,047
Filing Date	4/30/01
First Named Inventor	Ronald L. Beale
Art Unit	3727
Examiner Name	M. Brevard
Attorney Docket Number	133/28

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. ☐ Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on  
ii. ☐ Other

- b. ☒ Enclosed

- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)  
ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) iv. ☐ Other

2. ☐ Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)  
b. ☐ Other

3. ☐ Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)  
ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)  
iii. ☐ Other

- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 595.00 enclosed

- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print / Type)	Edgar W. Averill, Jr.	Registration No. (Attorney / Agent)	24,752
Signature	<i>Edgar W. Averill, Jr.</i>	Date	December 30, 2003

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print / Type)	Edgar W. Averill, Jr.	Date	December 30, 2003
Signature	<i>Edgar W. Averill, Jr.</i>	Date	December 30, 2003

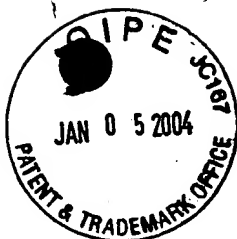
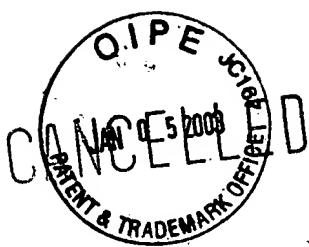
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#13B  
1/15/04  
GMM

In re the Application of  
RONALD L. BEALE  
For: BACK SUPPORT APPARATUS  
FOR USE WITH A BACKPACK  
Serial No. 09/844,047  
Filed: 4/30/01

PATENT  
) Art Unit: 3727  
) Examiner: M. Brevard  
)  
)  
)  
) December 30, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action of August 28, 2003, applicant files the accompanying request for continued examination and amends the application as follows: